

The background features abstract, flowing waves of color in shades of red, orange, yellow, green, and blue, creating a rainbow effect. The waves are layered and have a soft, ethereal quality.

PRIDE MONTH

RESPECT, DIGNITY, AND SERVICE

ALL TOGETHER

June 2022

PRIDE MONTH



The Department of Defense (DoD) recognizes June as Pride Month, celebrating LGBTQ+ Service members who have courageously served and sacrificed in the U.S. military.

Pride Month also upholds the Department's commitment to diversity and inclusion in all military branches.

HISTORY OF SERVICE



Throughout American history, LGBTQ+ Service members have fought to defend our rights and freedoms — from the founding of our nation, to the Civil War, through two World Wars, to Korea and Vietnam, and from Afghanistan to Iraq.

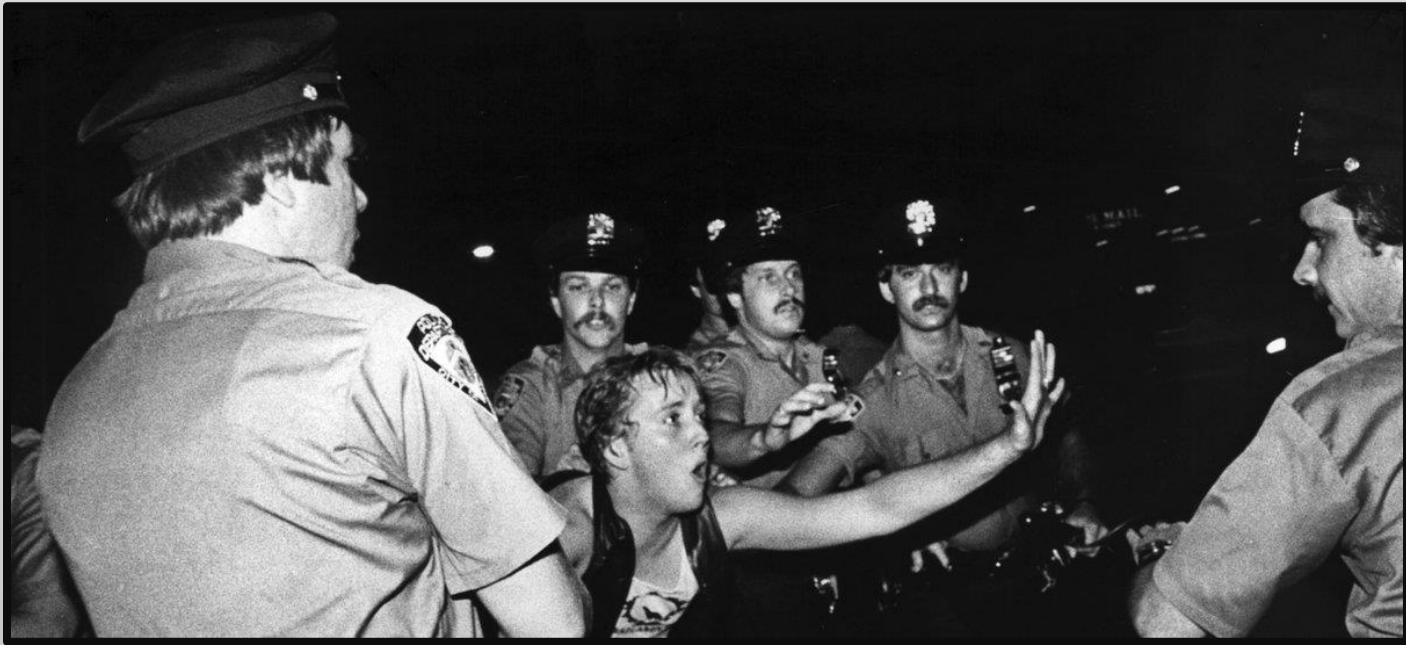


JUNE'S SIGNIFICANCE

The Stonewall Riots, also called the Stonewall Uprising, began on June 28, 1969, when New York City police raided the Stonewall Inn, a gay club located in Greenwich Village in New York City.

The raid ignited a riot among bar patrons and neighborhood residents as police hauled employees and patrons out of the bar. Six days of protests and violent clashes with law enforcement followed.

THE STONEWALL RIOTS



The Stonewall Riots served as a catalyst for the gay rights movement in the United States and around the world.

POSTER/PRESENTATION



DoD Pride has chosen this year's theme: *"Respect, Dignity, and Service. All Together."*

This presentation recognizes Dr. Frank Kameny, Technical Sergeant Leonard Matlovich, and Colonel Margarethe Cammermeyer whose perseverance were instrumental in the struggle for gay rights.

DR. FRANK KAMENY (1 OF 4)



The struggle for civil rights in the LGBTQ+ community actually began much earlier. Dr. Frank E. Kameny fought for gay rights more than a decade before the Stonewall riots.

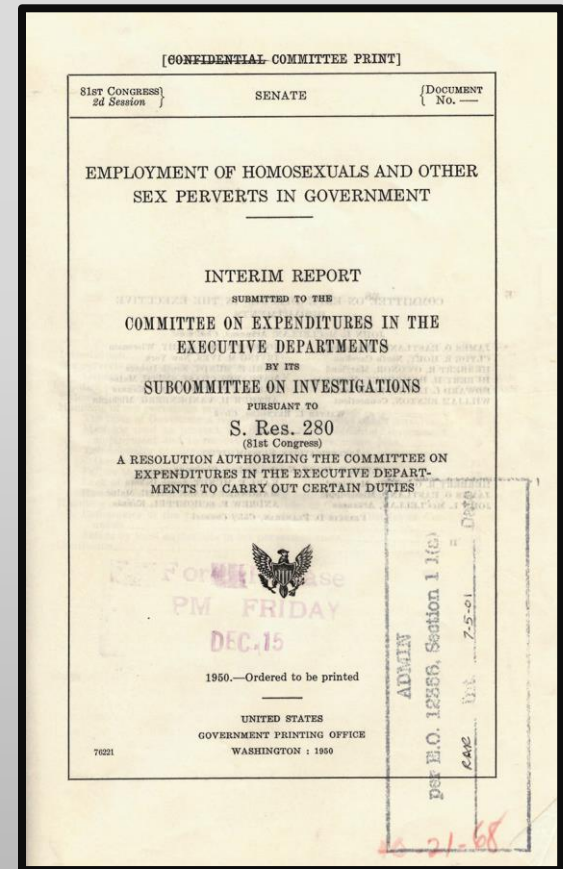


He served in World War II and later as a civil service astronomer with the U.S. Army Map Service.

DR. FRANK KAMENY (2 OF 4)

In 1957, Kameny lost his job for being gay. In 1958, he was banned from future federal employment. He was not alone.

Discriminatory practices forced more than 10,000 gay and lesbian employees out of their jobs during the 1950s and 1960s.



DR. FRANK KAMENY (3 OF 4)

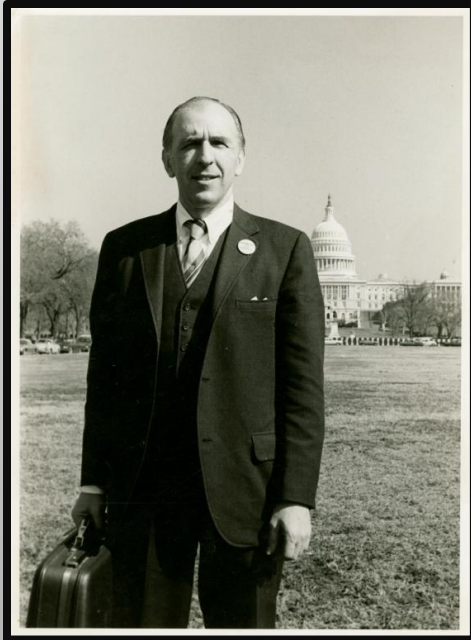
Kameny appealed his firing through the judicial system. He lost. He appealed and lost again. He brought the first civil rights action regarding sexual orientation to the U.S. Supreme Court, arguing that the government's actions toward gays were “...*an affront to human dignity.*”

The Court denied his petition for certiorari—the review process for court decisions.

He continued to fight for civil rights for 18 years.

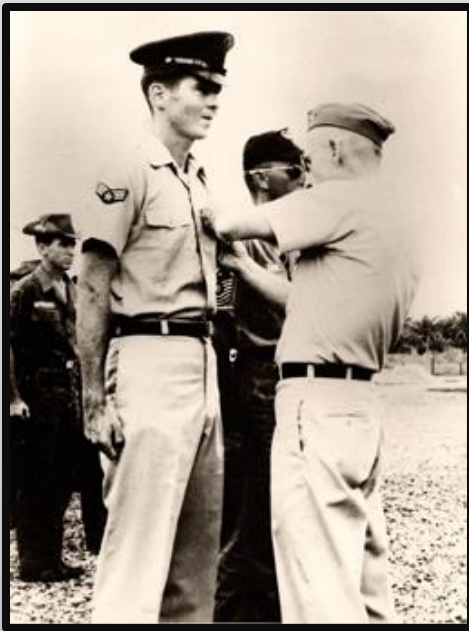
DR. FRANK KAMENY (4 OF 4)

Fifty years after he was fired, the U.S. Civil Service Commission issued Kameny a formal apology for being fired on the basis of his sexual orientation.



Before his death in 2011, he said, *"All I can say is from the long view, 50 years, we have moved ahead in a way that would have been absolutely unimaginable back then."*

TECHNICAL SERGEANT LEONARD MATLOVICH (1 OF 3)



Technical Sergeant Leonard P. Matlovich was a Vietnam War veteran who voluntarily served three combat tours. He later served as a military race relations instructor. He was awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.

He was also the first gay Service member to purposefully disclose his sexual orientation to challenge the ban on homosexuals in the military.



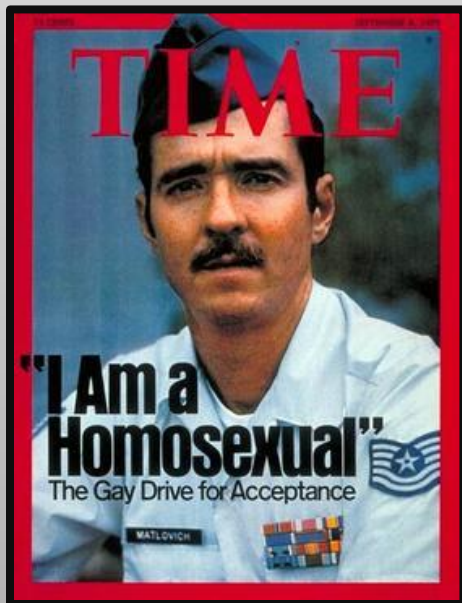
TECHNICAL SERGEANT LEONARD MATLOVICH (2 OF 3)

Matlovich wrote a letter to his commanding officer explaining his homosexuality, asking that an exception be made because of his Service record. The officer looked at it and said, “*Just tear it up and we will forget it.*” Matlovich refused.

His fight to stay in the U.S. Air Force after “coming out” became a cause the gay community rallied around.

TECHNICAL SERGEANT LEONARD P. MATLOVICH (3 OF 3)

The media covered his case in newspaper and magazine articles throughout the country, numerous television interviews, and a television movie.



His photograph appeared on the cover of the September 8, 1975 issue of *Time* magazine, making him a symbol for the LGBTQ+ community, including thousands of LGBTQ+ Service members.

COLONEL MARGARETHE CAMMERMEYER (1 OF 3)

In a lifetime of Service, Colonel Margarethe 'Grethe' Cammermeyer shattered many barriers.

Her fight to achieve equality for gays and lesbians in the Armed Forces exerted a lasting legacy in military nursing, in the Armed Forces, and in our nation's history.





COLONEL MARGARETHE CAMMERMEYER (2 OF 3)

In 1989, Cammermeyer, during a routine security clearance interview, disclosed she was a lesbian. As a result, she was involuntarily discharged two years later.

She filed a lawsuit against the DoD in federal court. In 1994, federal district Judge Thomas Zilly ruled her discharge—and the ban on gays and lesbians serving in the military—unconstitutional.

She was reinstated in 1994.

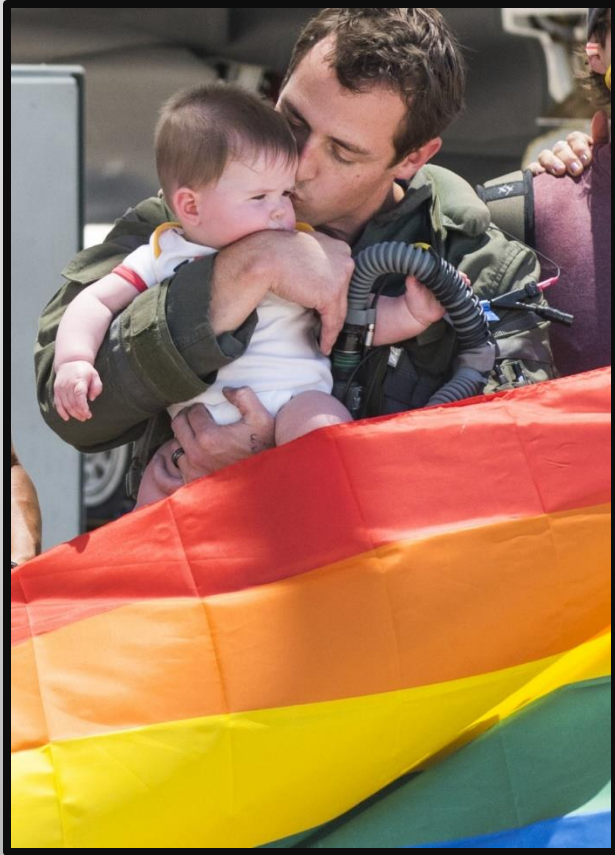
COLONEL MARGARETHE CAMMERMEYER (3 OF 3)

She continued serving as one of the few openly gay members in the U.S. military until her retirement in 1997.

During her 31-year military career, she also challenged policies that discriminated against married women and women who became pregnant on active duty.




CONCLUSION



Diversity is more than race, gender, and ethnicity—it means diversity of thought, ability, background, language, culture, and skill.

As we celebrate LGBTQ+ Pride Month, let us take pride in all who serve.



Prepared by the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute, Patrick Space Force Base, Florida June 2022

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